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**United States Patent** [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,261,009****Bokser**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 9, 1993**[54] **MEANS FOR RESOLVING AMBIGUITIES IN  
TEXT PASSED UPON CHARACTER  
CONTEXT**[75] **Inventor:** **Mindy R. Bokser**, San Francisco,  
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Calif.[21] **Appl. No.:** **856,472**[22] **Filed:** **Mar. 24, 1992****Related U.S. Application Data**[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 157,399, May 19, 1988, Pat.  
No. 5,133,023.[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup>** ..... **G06K 9/72**[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **382/40; 382/9;**  
382/15; 382/36[58] **Field of Search** ..... 382/9, 30, 34, 36-40[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method of identifying an object within a set of object candidates includes the steps of:  
 calculating the probability of occurrence of each member of a set of string candidates, wherein each string candidate contains one member of the set of object candidates, the calculating employing formulae using a method of groups and projections; and  
 identifying one of the objects based on the calculated probability.

**53 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**